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**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

 **JULY 13th, 2021 4:00-6:00 pm**

 ***Zoom Meeting:*** [***https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87908769869***](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87908769869?pwd=OW8xUENLT2ZJYktGMVVoRUdMZTRPUT09)

*Planting Seeds of Inspiration to Promote Conscious Stewardship of our Natural Resources*

NOTICE OF A REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURSUANT TO (CRS 24-6-402) OF THE Colorado GOVERNMENT CODE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: The Regular Meeting of the board of supervisors of the HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT will be at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 at the USDA Service Center, 628 West 5th, Cortez, Colorado and the following items of business will be considered and acted upon:

**4:04 CALL TO ORDER - Suzanne Aiken, President**

Virtually **Present** by Zoom meeting: Suzanne Aikin, David Temple, Hassan Hourmanesh, Adam Kackstetter, Susan Thomas, Joe Lanier, Gretchen Rank, Joel Lee **Absent:** none

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:** Dustin Stein from Mancos Conservation District attended the meeting to express support and affirm Mancos’s interest in future partnerships between Conservation Districts.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Motion to accept by Hassan, seconded by Suzanne - **passed**

**APPROVAL OF June MINUTES** Motion to accept by Joe, seconded by Adam - **passed**

**Review of June Action Items:**

* All board members are encouraged to revisit Hassan’s June 8th email with attachment and submit your volunteer hours to Hassan to the financial benefit of the district.
* As a partner of NRCS each board member of this district will need to sign that we understand NRCS’s Civil Rights policy. All board members who have not yet signed are encouraged to make arrangements with Joel to do so.
* Susan will update our Board member job description and will take out an ad in local papers for 3 weeks to recruit new Board Members- (Action Item Hassan will send Susan a CSCB supervisor training presentation to help create the description) Action Item Susan will follow up with a former rural development director to see if he is interested in joining our board.

**REPORTS**

**President** – Suzanne Aikin asked Hayley to remove Greg from our website and move Cory to Mancos’s section. Suzanne suggests adding a third board member as a signatory on our bank accounts and would like David to replace her name as a signatory. Gretchen informed the board that CSCB asks that district employees not be signatories. It was a unanimous decision by the Board that signatures for all bank accounts be changed as follows: Four Corners Community Bank - Account #3022500 - Remove Suzanne Aikin and Add David Temple and Susan Thomas. Dolores State Bank - NOW Acct. #804819 HI-FI Acct. #602728 and CD Acct. #33359921 Remove Suzanne Aikin and Greg Vlaming, Add David Temple and Susan Thomas. Hassan Hourmanesh, HDCD Treasurer will remain on all accounts.

**Vice President** – no report.

**Treasurer** – Action Item Hassan Hourmanesh will solve our dropbox issue and develop protocols to hold cash transactions for weed barrier and conservation supplies. The district finished in the black last month by almost $ 700.00 (ytd= -8400.00) Action Item Suzanne will pick up the bills that have been accumulating at our office and get them to Gretchen with authorization to be paid.

**Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter - no report

**Members at large-** Susan asked if Mancos would help with a district newsletter? Action item Susan will work on a newsletter to send out to our mailing list with information like employees spotlights; awareness for the services we offer our community (seed drill and manure spreader rentals; conservation supply and tree sales) and tips on conservation practices.

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** Joel Lee has three vacant positions in his office he hopes to hire. The CRP pay rates have increased this year and EQIP has an extended deadline for things like Drought mitigation, cover crops, and livestock water development.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Approval of **CSCB matching grant** application. Due by August. Gretchen Rank sent out a revised budget application for 25k that supports our Master Land steward program, and continues to support Montezuma School To Farm Project. HDCD will be on the hook for a cash match if we are successful in acquiring the grant. Motion to submit the grant application as proposed by Adam, seconded by Susan - **passed**
* Discussions about **DCT program** and a plan to utilize their time. If we apply for another DCT position Joel will allow that employee to work on district business for one day a week or for a few hours here and there as needed (up to and including 20%) but Joel would like to be in the loop of what the employees is supposed to be doing. Joel supports the DCT doing outreach but would rather the district not offer the exact same service as NRCS. Our DCT could also help sell district products and rent tools, write articles, help Mancos CD, perform Soil testing, etc. Joel likes to keep our DCT’s serving the public directly. He would not like our DCT to be involved in fundraising or attending district meetings. Motion to start hiring another DCT immediately by David, seconded by Adam – **passed** Action Item Gretchen recommends that the board forms a committee to dust off the position description for the DCT (including the details of the salary and insurance, and duties that include computer work and taking credit card payments) and identify exactly where we see our 20% of the DCT’s time going to. It was decided that this committee will be composed of Gretchen, Joel, David, Hassan and Susan.
* Discussions about the Co-hiring a full-time DM to serve both Mancos and HDCD? *-Tabled*
* Senate Bill 21-234 created a one-time payment ($15,000) to all conservation districts to build capacity and help landowners with drought resilience. How would HDCD like to use this funding? -*Tabled*
* DM and DCT MOU draft for conservation planning job description. A 2-person committee of David and Hassan will help this effort in July/August. Gretchen pointed out that there are many ways to move forward in partnership and we need to figure out details like who is going to check the district phone and get and deliver the mail and if we want a physical office in the NRCS building, also how best we are going to answer the concerns of our constituents expressed in our recent survey. This may best be done in a board retreat.

**OLD BUSINESS** *Tabled*

* **Board Recruitment**
* 2021 SW AG seminar/annual meeting.
* Supervisor Certification program
* Suzanne, and Gretchen will work with Hayley to see what it will take to remove the **old website.**
* Introduce ourselves to our County Commissioners – **Tabled due to COVID-19**
* **Fundraiser ideas**– HDCD would greatly benefit from a signature event to serve our community and raise awareness for the district. Can we re-Invent “Made in Montezuma”?

**6:00 ADJOURN – Suzanne Aikin, President**

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| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA****Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: August 10th, 2021** **by Zoom 4:00-6:00** |